

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2004

Contact: Kaaren Boothroyd

kboothroyd@parks.ca.gov

(530) 622-6198

Sunday, December 12, 2004

1850s Circuit Preacher to Visit Coloma

COLOMA -- Before you start your holiday shopping at "Christmas in Coloma," stop by the historic Emmanuel Church in Coloma for a step back into history as the "Rev. Freedom Hawkins" leads a 30-minute, non-denominational church service on Sunday, December 12, 2004 at 11 a.m.

The Rev. Hawkins will be assisted by organist Joan Cook and vocalist Faythe Vollrath. The church is located on Church Street, just off the junction of Hwy 49 and Cold Springs Road in Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

The Rev. Hawkins' preaching will take church-goers back to the days when circuit preachers came to Coloma to spread "the word of the Lord" to the miners. The order of service includes the telling of the Christmas story, singing of Christmas carols, and music played on the church's classic pump organ.

After church, visitors can stroll down to the center of the Park to find entertainment and activities for all ages, including holiday shopping, historic trade demonstrations, strolling musicians, 19th-century games, and wreath making. A visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus is the highlight of the day for kids – and snow is guaranteed!

Visitors will find one-of-a-kind gifts offered by more than sixty vendors and great food when it's time for a lunch or snack. The Park's historic buildings will also be open, with volunteers portraying townspeople in historically accurate dress sharing the history of Coloma. Visitors can learn to pan for gold and make rope and see demonstrations of blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, and more.

The park is located in Coloma on Highway 49 between Placerville and Auburn. Cost is \$7 per vehicle. For more information call (530) 295-2162.

The event is presented by the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and the Gold Discovery Park Association, a nonprofit organization whose mission it is to promote the interpretation and conservation of the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

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